

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (new): An apparatus for generating heat for heating a fluid, comprising:

a container for holding a material to be warmed;
a chamber disposed about the container;
an activatable heating substance disposed within the chamber, said activatable heating substance releasing heat when activation is initiated; and,
means for initiating the activation of said activatable heating substance, said means comprising a spring disposed in said activatable heating substance, said spring being fixed near a proximal end, a magnetic member attached to said spring near a distal end, wherein movement of a magnetically attractive member near said magnetic member causes movement of said magnetic member and flexing of said spring to initiate the activation of said activatable heating substance.

Claim 43 (new): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein said activatable heating substance and said means for initiating the activation are contained within a housing, said housing being insertable into said chamber.

Claim 44 (new): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said magnetically attractive member is connected to said container adjacent said housing and wherein movement of said container in relation to said housing causes movement of said magnetic member and flexing of said spring.

Claim 45 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the activatable heating substance comprises one of supercooled sodium acetate, lead acetate, calcium nitrate tetrahydrate, sodium pyrophosphate, sodium thiosulfate, and trimethylol ethane hydrate.

Claim 46 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising a lid removably coupled to the container.

Claim 47 (new): The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the lid includes a hinge and wherein a portion of the lid is rotatable about the hinge.

Claim 48 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising an insulating layer disposed about the chamber.

Claim 49 (new): The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the insulating layer comprises one of neoprene, styrofoam, or urethane.

Claim 50 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein with activation, the activatable heating substance produces heat sufficient to warm the material within the container to a preselected temperature range.

Claim 51 (new) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein with activation, the activatable heating substance produces heat sufficient to maintain the material above room temperature for at least about 2 hours.

Claim 52 (new): The apparatus of claim 50, wherein with activation, the activatable heating substance produces heat sufficient to maintain the material above room temperature for at least about 4 hours.

Claim 53 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the activatable heating substance comprises about 1250 milliliters of supercooled sodium acetate solution having a concentration of about 17.68 molar, which substance upon activation produces heat sufficient to warm about 800 milliliters of material at about 68.5 degrees Fahrenheit to a temperature between 95 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit and maintain it between 95 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit for at least about 2 hours.

Claim 54 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the activatable heating substance comprises about 400 milliliters of supercooled sodium acetate solution having a concentration of

about 17.68 molar, which substance upon activation produces heat sufficient to maintain about 500 milliliters of material pre-warmed to about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit at a temperature between 95 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit for at least about 2 hours.

Claim 55 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the container comprises one of polypropylene, nylon, polyethylene, vinyl, stainless steel, and titanium.

Claim 56 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the container further comprises a spout.

Claim 57 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein at least a portion of the apparatus is sterilizable.

Claim 58 (new): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the activatable heating substance has a first state prior to activation and a second state after activation.

Claim 59 (new): The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the activatable heating substance is restorable to the first state after activation and may again be returned to the second state by activation.

Claim 60 (new): An apparatus for generating heat for heating a fluid, comprising:
a container for holding a material to be warmed;
an outer housing and an inner housing disposed together in interconnecting relationship defining a chamber between the outer housing and the inner housing, said inner housing sized to receive said container therein;
a removable heater housing disposed within said chamber and containing an activatable heating substance, said activatable heating substance releasing heat when activation is initiated; a spring disposed in said heater housing, said spring being fixed near a proximal end to said heater housing, a magnetic member attached to said spring near a distal end; and,
said container including a magnetically attractive member adjacent said heater housing,

wherein rotational movement of said container and said magnetically attractive member in relation to said heater housing results in movement of said magnetic member and flexing of said spring to initiate the activation of said activatable heating substance.

Claim 61 (new): An apparatus for generating heat for heating a fluid, comprising:

a container for holding a material to be warmed;

a chamber disposed about the container;

an activatable heating substance disposed within the chamber, said activatable heating substance releasing heat when activation is initiated; and,

a spring disposed in said activatable heating substance, said spring being fixed near a proximal end, a magnetically attractive member attached to said spring near a distal end, wherein movement of a magnet near said magnetically attractive member causes movement of said magnetically attractive member and flexing of said spring to initiate the activation of said activatable heating substance.

Claim 62 (new): An apparatus for generating heat, comprising:

a substantially nonferrous housing containing an activatable heating substance, said activatable heating substance releasing heat when activation is initiated; a spring disposed in said housing, said spring being fixed near a proximal end to said housing, a magnetic member attached to said spring near a distal end, wherein movement of said magnetic member results in flexing of said spring and initiating activation of said activatable heating substance.

Claim 63 (new): An apparatus for holding surgical fluids in a relatively warm state, comprising;

a substantially nonferrous container sized to hold a preselected amount of surgical fluid;

a magnetically attractive member disposed in a preselected location of said container, said magnetically attractive member adapted to activate an apparatus for generating heat as claimed in claim 62.

Claim 64 (new): An apparatus for generating heat, comprising:

a substantially nonferrous housing containing an activatable heating substance, said activatable heating substance releasing heat when activation is initiated; a spring disposed in said housing, said spring being fixed near a proximal end to said housing, a magnetically attractive member attached to said spring near a distal end, wherein movement of a magnetic member near said magnetically attractive member results in movement of said magnetically attractive member and flexing of said spring to initiate activation of said activatable heating substance.

Claim 65 (new): An apparatus for holding surgical fluids in a relatively warm state, comprising:
a substantially nonferrous container sized to hold a preselected amount of surgical fluid;
a magnetic member disposed in a preselected location of said container, said magnetic member adapted to activate an apparatus for generating heat as claimed in claim 64.

Claim 66 (new): A method for warming a material, comprising
providing an apparatus for generating heat, comprising:
a container for holding the material to be warmed;
a chamber disposed about the container; and,
a housing disposed within said chamber containing an activatable heating substance, said activatable heating substance releasing heat when activation is initiated; a spring disposed in said activatable heating substance, said spring being fixed near a proximal end to said housing, a magnetic member attached to said spring near a distal end;
positioning the material to be warmed within the container; and
activating the heating substance by movement of a magnetically attractive member near said magnetic member causing movement of said magnetic member and flexing of said spring to initiate the activation of said activatable heating substance.

Claim 67 (new): The method of claim 66, wherein the heating substance has a first state prior to activating and a second state after activating; and, further comprising:

removing the housing from said chamber;
restoring the heating substance to said first state.